

United Mine Workers of America

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June 23, 2015

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
United States House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1701

Dear Congressman Whitfield:

I write to thank you for introducing H.R. 2042 - The Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015 in the United States House of Representatives. The United Mine Workers of America wholeheartedly supports this legislation because it will address much of the potential damage that would be inflicted on coal workers, their families and their communities as well as consumers of electricity throughout the United States as a result of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan (CPP).

There is no question that there will be significant litigation surrounding this rule once it is finalized, and that states will not have final guidance on how to proceed until that litigation winds its way through the federal court system, a process which will take several years to complete. During that time, states will have to decide how to comply with a rule that may in fact be voided entirely.

Because of the CPP's built-in bias against coal-fired power, states will be forced to move to eliminate coal as a fuel for generating energy. Meanwhile, advances in carbon capture and storage technology are likely to reduce the cost of capturing and storing carbon. Your bill enables development of this critical technology to move forward while also allowing states to make decisions based on settled law.

We believe that the EPA has overstepped the authority granted to it by the Clean Air Act with those provisions of the CPP that effectively re-engineer the nation's electric supply system. Your bill takes steps to correct that problem, and we are supportive of this as well.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation, and please let me know what the UMWA can do to help secure its passage.

Sincerely,

Cecil E. Roberts